

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00708 171309Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4098

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR SOPN AG EG SU SA

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN MEDIA COMMENTARY ON EGYPTIAN DENUNCIATION TREATY
WITH SOVIET UNION

1. ALGERIAN OFFICIAL MEDIA MARCH 15-16 FOCUSED ON
PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED EGYPTIAN
BREAKING OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION. ALGERIAN
VIEW CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. SADAT'S DECISION TAKEN FOR THREE REASONS: TO
FIND SCAPEGOAT FOR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES; TO PLEASE PRESIDENT
FORD AT TIME WHEN FOREIGN POLICY BECOMING ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT IN U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN; AND TO MAKE SERIOUS
ENGAGEMENT TO "ARABIA" (CLEARLY SAUDI ARABIS).

B. SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION NOW AT AN END AND
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EGYPTIAN SOCIALISM HAS GIVEN WAY TO FREE ENTERPRISE AND

INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM. NONE OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE SOLVED BY THIS MOVE.

C. SADAT'S MOVE WILL DOUBTLESS BE WELCOMED BY U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA, LATTER HAVING PROMISED ITS AID IN SETTING UP INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR EGYPTIAN RECONSTRUCTION. SAUDI ARABIA OBSESSIVELY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SOVIET.

D. FEW COUNTRIES HAVE DONE AS MUCH FOR EGYPT AS SOVIET UNION, IN 1956, 1967, 1970 AND 1973. ASWAN DAM MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. SYRIAN DENUNCIATION OF SADAT'S MOVE COVERED AND ISRAELI ASSERTION (ATTRIBUTED TO YEDIOT AHARANOT) THAT DECISION DOES NOT GREATLY INCREASE CHANCES OF PEACE IS TERMED AS ATTEMPT ON TEL AVIV'S PART TO HIDE IT SATISFACTION.

3. COMMENT: ALGERIAN REGIME HAS ONCE MORE STOPPED JUST SHORT OF FULL-FLEDGED CRITICISM OF EGYPT. LEADERSHIP CLAIMS IT DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF ENGAGED BY WHAT APPEARS IN OFFICIAL ALGERIAN MEDIA AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT IT HAS MAINTAINED HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE ON EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

4. CRITICISM OF SAUDI ARABIA RARELY APPEARS IN OFFICIAL MEDIA. SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAS SUPPORTED ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND HAS HELPED SMOTHER ANTI-SAUDI PRESS RHETORIC. PRESUMABLY ALGERIANS AWARE OF CURRENT SAUDI FINANCIAL BACKING OF MOROCCAN REARMAMENT AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF ANTI-SAUDI THEME DEVELOPED FURTHER. PARKER

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